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Rec'd March 24, 1950
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FROM: Brussels

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 485, March 24, noon.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 24 1950
DC/L
LIAISON OFFICE

SENT DEPARTMENT 485; REPEATED LONDON 124, PARIS 120, THE HAGUE 46.

Preliminary reports throughout Belgium indicate Socialist-Communist general strike in protest against possible return of King has had less effect than had been anticipated.

In Liege streetcar traffic normal although some slow-down in rail movements; only one incident requiring police intervention thus far reported. However, Liege steel mills not working as labor force went out although white collar employees are on job. Great arms factory, Fabrique National, completely struck.

In Brussels no streetcars early this morning but intermittent service now resumed. Throughout Belgium as a whole rail traffic normal but in cities some slow-down in delivery merchandise.

Numerous crowds of students and workers noticeable on Brussels streets this morning but demonstrations have been orderly and no civil distrubance is feared.

Following meeting yesterday of Ministers of State it is reported Carton de Wiart or some other delegate will report results of meeting to King in Switzerland. No further reunion of Ministers of State is planned.

MURPHY

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